

Clear Trap Prescribed Fire

The lack of natural fire in Zion (due mainly to past land management policies) has contributed to high fuel loadings and a change in forest structure. Prescribed fire is a treatment to restore forest health and reduce risks from future wildfires.

Objectives
To provide protection for surrounding property and structures, reduce fuel loading and increase the success of remaining ponderosa pine forests to withstand natural fires. As always, safety is the number one consideration when conducting any prescribed fire.

Size
4400 acres.

Location (see map at right).
Along the eastern boundary of Zion National Park, near the Zion Ponderosa Ranch

When
Ignition is planned for the spring of 2004 (specific time is dependent on favorable weather conditions and availability of resources). Residents and property owners will be advised as soon as possible before ignition.

Method
A hand-ignited blackline burn along the park boundary will be followed by aerial ignition from a helicopter on the remaining portion of the unit. Firefighters and engines will be stationed along the park boundary and at adjacent private property and structures for protection. Water holding tanks and hose lays will be established to assist in these protection measures. The fire will be closely monitored until it is declared out.

Completed Work
A four-mile brush line has been completed along the perimeter of the burn unit. Removed debris was piled and burned in the winter/spring of 2002.

Short-Term Impacts
Possible smoky conditions for 2-3 days. Temporary local trail closures.

For more information on Fire Management in Zion: 435-772-3256.



Cleared fenceline on boundary



Burning debris piles



Water tank for structure protection



Structure near park boundary

